

## HealthCare Exchange - Outline - Jan. 19, 2012 -Allen Thunell

1. Positive evidence - Massachusetts - 98.1% have health care coverage.
2. Support any progress which would help more of the 1.3 million people in Michigan, have a greater chance of attaining health care coverage, especially people like my son who was a victim of factory closings, had health insurance coverage, and found another job, but without any health coverage.
3. Families in Michigan under greater stress than ever; all chronic or life-threatening diseases are family diseases; 1st wife - 9 yr. battle with breast cancer, in 93-94 years my second job was being a full-time caregiver; her suffering was devastating to my children, especially my son who just couldn't stand to see his mother suffer; they saw their mother suffer horribly, even with medical care coverage; one of the promises she had me make to her before she died was to advocate for universal coverage for pain management; "Nobody on this earth can stand this much pain" Her father and my mother just days before they died. Two men in my father's neighborhood committed suicide recently "Couldn't stand the pain any longer": in cases of Breast cancer - 50% of husbands leave their wives; 80% of husbands leave their wife with MS before they die; children abandon their parents with Alzheimers.

Families without health care coverage are especially vulnerable to be torn apart when some family disease strikes. Children suffer terribly watching their mother or father die because the disease was caught too late. Many will never get over this grief and turn to destructive behavior.

I have heard personally from family members who could no longer stand to see their family member suffer express a demand that the Government permit them to hire someone to "end their suffering", even from some who were getting some medical help.

Early-onset Alzheimers example; gentleman from Grand Ledge - wife - 55-needing care ; he is her only caregiver, but he has no healthcare coverage for himself or her. Caregivers are under enormous stress and many die prematurely. How many more people do you want to enter our nursing homes? I support any less costly medical assistance which would keep people out of nursing homes.

Caregivers are under-appreciated and save the State enormous amounts of money and need health care coverage.

4. Emergency room physician: need to reduce the non-emergency visits which could be better handled by a primary-care physician; ex. in 1980? - emergency room visit - \$200; primary care - \$45; worse problem - bronchitis - spreads the infection, person with severe heart problem needing emergency care now goes home infected with this disease sicker than he came in; foreign writer - only Americans could be that stupid.

Need to reduce unnecessary hospital emergency visits to enable hospitals to deal with major epidemics, bioterrorism threats, or other major disasters.

doctor on Sparrow Hospital board - agonizing over how to cover the enormous losses of the emergency room operations; more paying people solution.

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5. Principles which Abraham Lincoln believed and died for are being forgotten. Materialism ideology, making money more important than people's lives , has become common. All men are created equal; God did not create either an superior race or an inferior race; Bible was his "moral compass" for the nation. All citizens are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There is no quality of life for a family without healthcare. They live in continual fear of a major medical disease or accident. "Justice for all" includes all families. Family disease without proper medical care is sure to destroy happiness. Families are already under too much stress and too many are failing to cope. If one truly loves his neighbor, there will be a demonstrated desire that all families have health care coverage, especially in such a wealthy nation.

6.Finally: Help families currently without healthcare coverage to have the opportunity to have healthcare coverage so they have the opportunity to look forward to a future with more hope. The citizens of this State are looking to find leaders who will fight for justice and for the needs of all citizens.